

Who sends the best cables from Europe?  
Who sends the best dispatches from Havana?  
Who is the best dramatic writer and critic?  
Who is the best newspaper correspondent in Washington?  
Who is the funniest humorist in America?  
Who is the cleverest wit in New York City?

AND THEIR NAMES ARE HOUSEHOLD WORDS.

Julian Ralph cables the Journal from London.  
Muriel Halstead is Journal correspondent in Havana.  
Alton Dale writes exclusively for the Journal.  
Julius Chambers is Washington correspondent of the Journal.  
Bill Nye is funny for the Journal only.  
James L. Ford devotes his time to the Journal.

THEY WRITE FOR THE JOURNAL ONLY.

## WEYLER ORDERS A REIGN OF TERROR.

Non-Combatants Who Are  
Not Spain's Active Al-  
lies Are Doomed.

Officers of the Army Commanded  
to Arrest All Such and  
Spare None.

"The Country's Defense," He De-  
clares Apologetically. "Exacts  
the Sacrifice of Her Sons."

CORRESPONDENTS STILL HAMPERED.

The Censorship is Relaxed Only Nomin-  
ally—Plight of an Alcalde Who Is  
Being Hounded and Cannot  
Leave the Island.

By Charles Nicholson.

Havana, Feb. 16 (via Key West, Fla.).—General Weyler has issued another circular letter to the officers of his army which has greatly excited the people of Havana. It is addressed to the officers, but those who believe that they can read between the lines think that it means that from now on a policy of rigorous severity, including imprisonment and perhaps even death, will be followed not only toward open insurgent sympathizers, but toward those whose actions do not evidence an active determination to thwart the rebels and support the Spanish Government. Such a policy would at least hasten the denouement. It would practically do away with the large class who take neither side and who are not merely non-combatants, but are also non-partisans. In other words, it is believed that General Weyler intends to force a "show down." Whether that "show down" will be accompanied by blood and destruction remains to be seen. The important portion of Weyler's pronouncement is as follows:

GENERAL WEYLER'S PRONUNCIAMENTO.

"The address which I have already made may have given you a slight idea of the spirit that animates me and the policy which I shall follow as Governor-General and General-in-Chief, in accordance with the decided determination on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to subjugate and vanquish this insurrection. To avoid all doubts which may arise in your minds when you come to follow out as you are to follow out the orders which will be published, I believe it wise to make some additional observations.

"The actual state reached by the insurrection must not be unknown to you, and the recent raids made by rebel leaders, notwithstanding the active operations of the Spanish columns, reveal in the inhabitants indifference, fear or dismay. As it cannot be possible that the people look impassively on the burning or destruction of their own property, must I believe that those born in Spain sympathize with the rebels? It is necessary at all cost to combat this state of things and reanimate the patriotic spirit of the inhabitants, making them understand that I am resolved to apply all the rigor of the law to those that, in any form, help the enemy, praise them or lower the prestige of Spain, of its army or of the volunteers.

"It must be impressed also upon the minds of the people that those who are on our side must show by their acts that they are on our side. There can be no middle ground. The country's defense exacts the sacrifice of her sons. It is necessary that the towns defend themselves. There should be no lack of guides for our troops. Citizens must not give information to the enemy. It must not again occur that rebels are better informed than ourselves. The energy and rigor which the rebels have shown in exacting information from the

Inhabitants must mark out our own line of conduct.

WHOLESALE ARRESTS ORDERED.

"You will proceed to detain and place at my disposition, or submit to tribunals, those who in any way show support or sympathy for rebels.

"Neither will you forget the advisability of organizing the population into bands of volunteers and guerrillas. Organize each twenty-five male citizens into a squad and report to me.

"This order does not authorize you to take any action which is not prescribed by laws or orders, unless circumstances imperiously exact it. WEYLER."

THE CENSOR STILL BUSY.

The press censorship has been in a measure relaxed for a few days, but it is still a strong obstacle to telling the full truth about Cuba. For instance, I have not been able to cable the fact that Maceo and Gomez met recently, though there was a strong Spanish column between their forces. The meeting shows the worthlessness of the Trocha line from here to Batabano, on which Martinez Campos relied so much. Rebels apparently cross this line whenever they desire.

Gomez is still hovering around five or six leagues southeast of Havana, and Maceo has returned to his followers on the western border of Havana Province. In the newspaper offices at Havana great importance was attached to the meeting of Gomez and Campos. The journalists are in a ferment about it, but, of course, the news cannot be published in Havana. There has been ruin for a few days, which always causes a lull in military movements.

Alcalde Pizarro, of San Nicholas, has been in Havana in a bad state of mind. He knows that a neighboring Alcalde has denounced him and that the Government is drawing up a case against him. He came in to see Weyler to ask him to stop proceedings. Weyler told him that a loyal citizen had nothing to fear from investigation, and would not interfere. Then the Alcalde asked for a passport to go to the United States. This was refused, and now the Alcalde is more disturbed than if he were actually under arrest.

I am told that the Cuban seat of government, which was understood to be away off in the mountains of Camaguey, has been moved into Santa Clara Province. This is almost in the center of the island, and much nearer to the main army. This supports the theory that Gomez will not fly to the mountains, but will try to remain as near to Havana as possible.

REBELS IN HAVANA CITY.

The other day the rebels were in Jesus Del Monte, which is really a part of Havana, and connected to the capital by street car lines. They came in to get ammunition left there for them.

The Mayor of the town of Managua, a small place six miles from Havana, Gonzalo Del Cristo, LL.D., member of the Conservative party, has taken to the woods with a majority of the Councilmen. He also persuaded the Government volunteers stationed there to join him with their arms. When the rising was about to take place Del Cristo drew up his men before the Council House and completely burned it. It was his own property.

The Mayor of San Antonio De Las Vegas—Don Jacinto Hernandez—a Spaniard, and belonging to the Conservative party, with some of the Councilmen, the town doctor and the justices of the peace, besides a few volunteer officers and country people to the number of 300 men, have joined the rebel brigadier, Adolfo Castillo, whose forces now amount to over 4,000, well armed, and make up the vanguard of Gomez's forces. The majority of Alcalde Hernandez's men were equipped by the rebel leader Castillo.

PLOT TO UPSET WEYLER.

Those Who Overthrew Campos Are Now  
Intriguing Against His Ar-  
rogant Successor.

By Muriel Halstead.

Havana, Feb. 16, via Key West.—A gen-

tleman largely interested in Central Cuba and sympathetic with the cause of the insurgents communicated to me the views that are entertained by the Cuban Separatists, as the Spanish call them, of the situation of the island, and the prospects of the people, both as to war and peace.

I do not undertake to warrant all he says, but he is impressively a man of information, and it is possible that, owing to his enthusiasm, he accepted as true some fanciful exaggerations.

He says: "Mark the fact, all the towns of Cuba that are garrisoned are besieged from the interior of the island, of course, and their industries are impoverished, if not destroyed. If there is an exception it is Havana, and this city is beleaguered and disturbed. This has an object. It is to stop work and force the men out, as in a sympathetic strike.

"The towns are full of poor people, whose distress is increasing, and the Spaniards who hold the places must find food for them. The men are in the woods, which is the conventional phrase for being in the rebel army."

This gentleman accepted as true the story that General Weyler had promised the cane planters that in four weeks they should be grinding in four provinces, but as the General states he made no such promise, the alleged conditions that they say are imposed may be considered with some allowance. What General Weyler said was that he would furnish the troops if the planters bore the expense of transportation and subsistence, and would protect them by giving notice of the movement of the enemy. However, the General says that he has merely said he would do all in his power to protect sugar grinding.

There is a Cuban story that the Spaniards are much incensed at the new Captain-General for sending home General Canellas and a committee of the new waited upon him, hoping to procure a change of the order, but the General refused to hear arguments, and said it was the first time that an order of his had been questioned.

The story the Cubans tell is that he flatly told Canellas that he was a man without a head. More than this, the Cuban rumor runs, the Captain-General, when waited upon by a delegation of the citizens whose radicalism largely contributed to the expulsion of Martinez Campos, informed them before they had gone very far that he accepted no personal counsel; that there were to be no favorites of whom he would seek approbation and advice.

This, it is alleged, gave great offence to those who had expected to find recognition from him for their merit in having caused the overthrow of the administration of Martinez Campos, and part of this history is that they are already intriguing against the new man and expect to upset him.

The champions of Rebel Leader Gomez claim that he is in possession of the famous trocha short line drawn across the island where it is narrowest, and that he is calling his forces together from the east and west. They seem to entertain great expectations, but there are difficulties in the way of their confidence. They do not seem to understand what has become of the Spanish army. If they are going to defeat it they must know where it is.

It is confirmed as true, as for some time conjectured, that the rebel leaders feel they cannot afford to march eastward to any extent, for the reason that it would be regarded as a retreat and annihilate their prestige gained in marching westward.

This may produce very serious results. The Cubans acknowledge that it is probable that the loss of tobacco will be worse than that of sugar. They say not more than one-fourth of the cane plantations have been actually burned and that the cane can grow on and be richer in sugar than ever next year, whereas the tobacco finally perishes, and is going pretty fast. Horsemen are galloping through tobacco fields and trampling them—a thing they cannot do with cane.

The Cubans claim pretty nearly everything. They are absolute in asserting that they hold all the ground now covered by the Spanish armies and the cities that are garrisoned, and that they will hold it until Spain is exhausted.

Appeal to Women for Aid.

The Armenian Relief Association has issued an appeal for funds to the women of America. One dollar, the appeal says, suffices to supply one person in Armenia with food for two months, but \$250,000 is needed to keep the people from starvation until next April. One thousand women of America are asked to contribute \$100 each for the fund, and checks are requested to be forwarded to Charles H. Stout, Treasurer of the association.

Eight Killed in a London Fire.  
London, Feb. 16.—A lodging-house in So-  
ho, this city, was destroyed by fire this  
morning. Eight persons were killed.

## KISSING A BIBLE IS DANGEROUS.

The Germs of Deadly Diseases  
May Be Absorbed from  
the Holy Book.

Action of Talesman Molo in Re-  
corder Goff's Court Approved by  
Dr. Paul Gibier.

FILTHY VOLUMES IN THE COURTS.

Covers Coated with Dirt Offered to the  
Lips of Jurymen and Witnesses.  
Second-Hand Books  
Being Used.

According to an eminent authority the germs of deadly disease can be and probably are acquired in kissing the Bibles in common use in our criminal courts. From a careful examination of these it is certain that they are in a most unsanitary and uncleanly state.

Attention was drawn to this matter on Friday last when William P. Molo, of No. 127 East Ninety-third street, refused to kiss the Bible in Recorder Goff's court when taking the oath administered to talesmen previous to examination for the jury.

It was in Part IV. of General Sessions that a panel was drawn in the Gregory murder case, and when the name of William P. Molo was called, a dapper little gentleman about fifty years old, with highly intelligent face, and every item of whose appearance suggested culture and refinement, stepped to the witness stand. The oath was administered by the clerk and the Holy Book was handed to the talesman. Recorder Goff was holding a whispered conversation with another gentleman, upon the Bench. Mr. Molo looked for a moment at the Bible which he held, and then with an evident shudder of disgust he put it down.

"Kiss the book," peremptorily cried the court official, thrice, each time louder and more sternly. Recorder Goff looked round with surprise at the unusual tone of the clerk and appeared about to remonstrate when Mr. Molo asked the deliberate question: "Am I compelled to kiss that Bible?"

NO RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURES.

"Have you any religious scriptures?" asked the Recorder.

"No, I have no religious scriptures," replied Mr. Molo, "but that Bible is dirty. The covers are unfit to touch the lips of any man who regards cleanliness as next to godliness."

After some further discussion Talesman Molo was allowed to compromise by kissing one of the pages in the centre of the Bible. His services as a jurymen were afterward dispensed with on the ground of his hearing being slightly defective. Mr. Molo, who is a native of Switzerland, was seen at his home, No. 127 East Ninety-third street, yesterday, and said: "I certainly objected to kiss the Bible offered me in Part IV. of General Sessions, because it needed only a glance to see that it was in a filthy condition. At any time, to my mind, the idea of a man performing obligatory exercises upon the same book is objectionable. I have seen some smacks bestowed upon court Bibles that I would not care to follow. It is against all ideas of health. And I have seen Bibles thrown about on the floors of the courts, and in a disgusting condition. This one offered me was torn and incomplete, and the binding was very far from clean."

"I wish it to be distinctly understood that I refused to kiss that book from no religious prejudices. It was simply too dirty a thing to touch the lips of a human being. I have served as a jurymen twice in the same court and before the same Recorder. On each of those occasions I merely bowed my acknowledgment of my oath and obligations over the book when it was handed to me. I never actually kissed it. I was a little surprised at being ordered to do so, in such a peremptory manner, and rather than make a scene I obeyed the instructions of the Recorder, but I hold that if the ceremony must be observed at least clean books, or freshly covered ones, should be supplied."

DR. PAUL GIBIER'S VIEWS.

Dr. Paul Gibier, physician and professor of bacteriology of the Pasteur Institute, No. 1 West Ninety-seventh street, said yesterday: "I am reluctant to talk upon this subject, as I do not wish to be misunderstood, and I object to being interviewed at any time, but the matter is of such importance that I cannot refrain from recording my opinion that the custom of hundreds of persons kissing the same court Bible is undoubtedly a means of spreading contagious and infectious diseases."

"The man who refused was right. I did not hear of the incident, and I do not know who the man was, but I respect him for his action. He was right, and I am glad that he had the courage of his opinion. Of course, I am viewing the matter purely from a hygienic and sanitary standpoint. There can be little doubt that germs of deadly disease may lurk about books which are pressed to the lips of all classes of people, and that they may thus be gathered therefrom."

There are three or four Bibles in constant



Mrs. Cora Smith.

She was recently granted a divorce in the West from Actor Beaumont Smith. Modjeska's leading man, on the grounds of infidelity. Mrs. Smith was formerly a member of the famous Booth-Barrett combination, but she has determined to turn her attention to the grand opera stage, and to this end will soon leave for Europe to place herself under the tuition of one of the vocal masters in Paris.

use for the swearing of witnesses in each of the four parts of General Sessions. They are all of a similar character, and with one or two exceptions are in the same condition as that described by William P. Molo. They are uniformly bound in black stamped leather, and encased with gold. But the leather is worn gray with age, and the sunken gilt letters are obliterated by a coating of accumulated dirt, which in some places can be scraped off in cakes with the finger nail.

BOOKS WERE VERY UNCLEAN.  
After handling the three specimens of the Holy Book found on Saturday in Part I. for a few minutes, it was found necessary to subject the hands to an application of soap and water. One Bible had lost some leaves from Revelation, and the book hung loose from the binding. Others were worn through at the corners, the leather being entirely gone, and the interior brown paper packing of the backs frayed, soiled and naturally receptive of dust and dirt, was exposed to view. Upon rubbing with a damp piece of white linen the backs of all these, a thick coat of black filth was left upon the cloth.

How long these Bibles had been in use it was impossible to ascertain. Nobody professed to know. It seemed that they just floated in any bow, and as the older ones were mislaid or dropped to pieces, others found their way into the drawers of the clerk's desk. These, in some instances, are brand new. In Part III. of General Sessions and in the Centre Street Police Court entirely new books have been provided. Probably those in use at the Tombs before the old locality was abandoned were in too fragile a state to bear removal.

From lettering in some of the Court House Bibles, however, it would appear that they were second or even third hand when they became the mediums whereby many pledge themselves to "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." One in Part III. has the following names, presumably of previous owners written upon the fly leaf:

"John M. Oakford, January 1, 1891, No. 4 West Thirtieth street; C. Paul, June 9, 1893; Captain Patrick Myran; McGren, Ala."

The fact that these books sold the hands appears to be sufficient warranty for Mr. Molo refusing to press one to his lips. But those in many police courts of the city are in far worse condition than those in use in the big Centre street building. There is little refinement or cleanliness about many of the hundreds who are daily called upon to kiss the book in Essex Market Court. The habitual language on the lips of some of these is of itself sufficiently offensive, and very little imagination is needed to believe that other equally objectionable germs may be left upon the greasy, well-worn lips of the Holy Book. Two Bibles lay upon the Magistrate's desk after the morning session on Saturday last. One was a small octavo volume, bound in embossed black leather, and having a stamped cross in the centre of the top lid. When the accumulated dirt had been scraped with a penknife point from the indentation it was found that it had originally been gilt.

Both backs were cracked and broken right across their length and when a dry

## CORA G. SMITH IS DIVORCED.

The Wife of Modjeska's Lead-  
ing Man Gets a Final  
Separation.

She Was Formerly a Member of the  
Famous Booth-Barrett Combina-  
tion, and Charges Infidelity.

GRANTED A DIVORCE IN ST. LOUIS.

The Actress Has Forsaken the Dramatic for  
the Operatic Stage, and Will Per-  
fect Her Vocal Talents in  
Europe.

Cora Gabrielle Smith, the actress who made her first appearance on the stage with the Booth-Barrett combination, was granted a divorce in St. Louis last week from her husband, William Beaumont Smith.

The charge was infidelity, which is alleged to have occurred in Boston in the Fall of 1895. The co-respondent was a member of the chorus of the Pauline Hall Opera Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, nee Burns, were married June 9, 1895, in Fort Scott, Kansas. At that time Beaumont Smith was playing a leading role with Modjeska, and his wife travelled with him. Suddenly she returned to St. Louis, the home of his parents, General and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Smith, and resided with them several months.

General Smith is a retired army officer, the oldest living with the rank of Major-General. He graduated at West Point in the same class with General Grant.

UPHELD BY SMITH'S PARENTS.

A peculiar feature of the divorce suit is the fact that General and Mrs. Smith are entirely in sympathy with their daughter-in-law, and are grieved very much at the conduct of their son.

When the case was tried Mrs. Smith was the only witness who appeared to prove the charges. She testified to the truthfulness of her allegations against her husband, and when asked if she had confronted him with them, answered that she had and that he did not deny them. Mrs. Smith is now living in New York with her sister, Miss Burns, who is a clever artist. She was loath to speak of her personal troubles, which, she said, were exceedingly painful. She expressed much affection and gratitude for her father-in-law, who, she said, had been very kind to her.

"I shall never appear on the dramatic stage again," she said yesterday. "I expect to leave New York in a few weeks, and shall go abroad to perfect my talents in the musical line. My forte in vocal music is as a dramatic soprano, and it is my present ambition to appear in grand opera."

"Billy" Smith, as Mr. Smith is known in the profession, is still playing with the Modjeska company. He was originally with the old McCullough Dramatic Company, and was associated at different times with Augustus Thomas, the playwright; Frank Wynnan, Wayman McCreery and others.

HE WANTS ARNOT PUNISHED.

Lawyer McElhinney Seeks Witnesses to  
an Alleged Assault on Him.

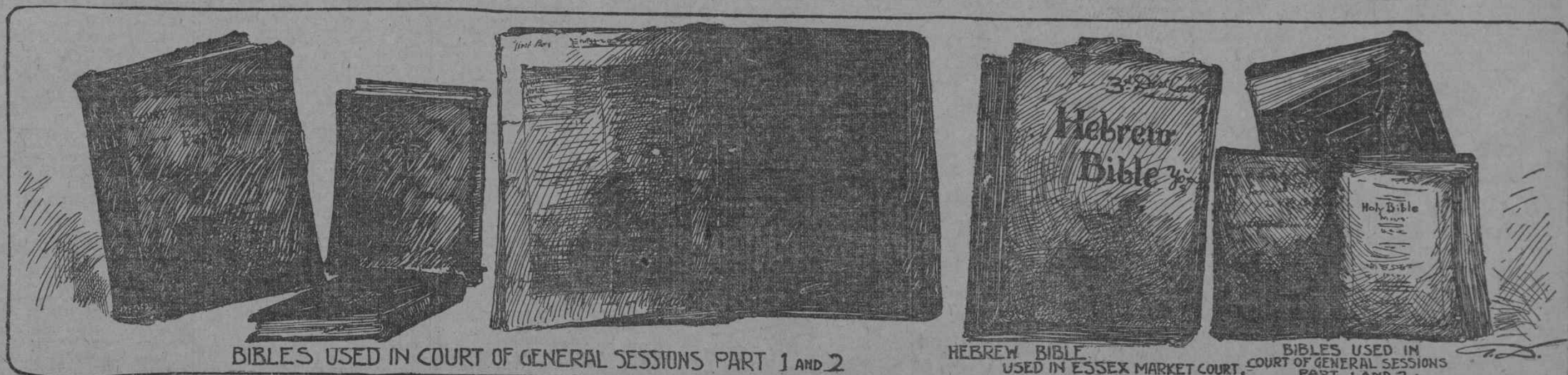
PERSONS who saw underground assaulted Jan-  
uary 23 last, at 2 p. m., opposite Times building,  
will please call or communicate; will pay for  
time lost as witnesses. JAMES W. McELHINNEY,  
132 Nassau st.

Mr. McElhinney, a lawyer, with an office at No. 132 Nassau street, inserted the foregoing personal in one of the daily papers yesterday. He claims that he was attacked by Peter P. Arnot, a brownstone dealer. Mr. McElhinney was seen last night at his residence, No. 54 East One Hundred and Twenty-eighth street, and said that Arnot came up behind him and struck him, telling him to the ground. The only reason Mr. McElhinney can give for the assault is that he defended a client, named James Brown, a builder, in a suit brought by Arnot to recover the amount of a note given by Brown. The case was won by Arnot, and the supplementary proceedings which followed were finally dismissed.

Arnot was never able to collect the amount of the note, and Mr. McElhinney thinks Arnot tried to get revenge by assaulting him. Mr. McElhinney says he wants to find witnesses to the assault, so that he can have Mr. Arnot punished according to law.

Humbert's Nephew Wants to Fight.

Rome, Feb. 16.—The Duke of Aosta, nephew of King Humbert, who recently married the Princess Helen, of Orleans, has begged His Majesty and General Monetti, Minister of War, to allow him to take command of the men of his regiment, Fifth Artillery, who have been selected to reinforce the Italian army operating against the Abyssinians.



A talesman in one of the city courts last week refused to kiss the Bible—on the grounds that it was dirty and that the cover contained germs of diseases. Dr. Paul Gibier, of the Pasteur Institute, approved of the man's actions. He said that a Bible which is kissed by many people might be the means of spreading disease. Most of the Bibles in the city courts are in a filthy condition. The dirt is so thick on the covers that it can be scraped off with a knife. The binding is worn by constant use and many of the volumes are hardly fit to be taken in a person's hands. The idea of kissing it is repugnant. Several of the books in use are second hand. No one seems to know where they came from. They are risky to kiss them there can be no doubt.